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The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

## ruthenium

SYLLABICATION: ru-the-ni-um

PRONUNCIATION: rō-thē'nē-əm

NOUN: *Symbol Ru* A hard white acid-resistant metallic element that is found in platinum ores and is used to harden platinum and palladium for jewelry and in alloys for nonmagnetic wear-resistant instrument pivots and electrical contacts. Atomic number 44; atomic weight 101.07; melting point 2,310°C; boiling point 3,900°C; specific gravity 12.41; valence 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. See table at [element](#).

ETYMOLOGY: From Medieval Latin *Ruthenia*, Russia, from *Ruthenī*, Russians, from Russian *Rusin*, from Old Russian *Rusī*, Russian. See [Russian](#).

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